

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219658
ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/BP:APADAMS:VJW
APPROVED BY EB/IFD/BP:HJWINTER
EUR/CAN - GMONROE (INFO)
L/EB - SBOND
JUSTICE - JDAVIDOW
-----086465 141037Z /14
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 219658

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CAN

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: CONNECTICUT STATE SUIT AGAINST
PAPER INDUSTRY

REF: 76 STATE 306156

1. WASHINGTON POST REPORTS SEPTEMBER 9 THAT STATE OF
CONNECTICUT FILED A CRIMINAL SUIT JULY 28 AGAINST A NUMBER
OF AMERICAN PAPER COMPANIES (SOME WITH CANADIAN OPERATIONS
AND SUBSIDIARIES) FOR A VARIETY OF ALLEGED ANTICOMPETITIVE
PRACTICES WHICH INFLATED COST OF PAPER PROCURED FOR STATE
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE COMPANIES REPORTEDLY HAVE UNTIL
OCTOBER 17 TO REPLY TO THE SUIT WHICH WAS FILED IN THE U.S.
DISTRICT COURT IN HARTFORD. AMONG OTHER ASPECTS OF THE
ALLEGED CONSPIRACY DATING FROM 1965, THE SUIT ACCUSES
COMPANIES OF COLLUSIVE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT AT SECRET
MEETINGS, INTER ALIA, AT VANCOUVER AND VICTORIA, B.C.
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PAGE 02 STATE 219658

(FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED BY AIRGRAM.)

2. WASHINGTON POST STORY WAS FIRST THAT EITHER WE OR THE
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAD HEARD OF THIS ACTION. WE THEREFORE
HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE STATE SUIT IS RELATED
TO THE ONGOING FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF THE
PAPER INDUSTRY NOTIFIED UNDER OECD PROCEDURES TO THE

CANADIANS LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL). IN CONNECTION WITH THIS FEDERAL CASE, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT THE GRAND JURY IS CONTINUING ITS WORK AND THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT.

3. AS A COURTESY, YOU MAY WISH TO BRING THE CONNECTICUT SUIT AND WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES, NOTING THE FOREGOING POINTS. VANCE

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